of Rifampicin particularly on import policy of Rifa-S;

(b) if so, the points made in regard to (i) price control (ii) ratio change (iii) pricing one sided policy for protection of just two manufacturers at the cost of all other SSI units and general observations and specific suggestions made therein;

(c) the reaction of Government to the suggestions and action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(d) the specific steps proposed to bring down the prices of Rifampicin for the treatment of T.B. under National T.B. eradication programme and for checking unfair trade practices by the two protected units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Suggestions/proposals have been reveived from various quarters, including the manufacturers of Rifampicin and these have been considered for deciding on the Rifampicin Intermediates Policy for 1995-96 which is under finalisation.

(d) The Rifampicin Intermediates Policy and the various measures proposed in the Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986 and the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 aim to achieve abundant availability, at reasonable prices of essential and life saving and prophylactic medicines of good quality.

Leakage of Gas from RCF plant

5661. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact there was a heavy leakage of gas from the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Plant at Chembur in North-East Bombay on 13th April, 1995;

(b) if so, whether there has been any loss of life and property as a result thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken so as to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) There was an accidental release of ammonia gas on 13.4.1995 for a very short duration at the Trombay plant of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) due to malfunctioning of control valve/transmitter.

(b) There was no loss of life or property due to the release of ammonia gas.

(c) RCF has already taken remedial action by overhauling the defective instruments in the plant.

Letters by Membes

5662. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL ALIAS MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to his Ministry during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995 alongwith year-wise details;

(b) the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) 579

(b) 471

(c) 476

(d) Replies to the communications were given based on the facts and merits of each individual case.